

JFK Assassination System
Identification Form

Date: 4/14/201

Agency Information

AGENCY : FBI
RECORD NUMBER : 124-10313-10012

RECORD SERIES : HQ

AGENCY FILE NUMBER : 100-395934-120

Document Information

ORIGINATOR : FBI
FROM : HQ
TO :

TITLE :

DATE : 10/20/1970
PAGES : 63

SUBJECTS :

ELIZABETH CATLETT MORA

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
CLASSIFICATION : Secret
RESTRICTIONS : 1B; 1C; 4
CURRENT STATUS : Redact
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 09/03/1998

OPENING CRITERIA : INDEFINITE, APPROVAL OF USA, CIA

COMMENTS :

~~SECRET~~
CORRELATION SUMMARY

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

Main File No: 100-395934

Date: 10/20/70

Subject: Elizabeth Catlett Mora

Date Searched: 6/10/69

All logical variations of subject's name and aliases were searched and identical references were found as set out on page 2:

Also searched as Elizabeth More. See page 62 of summary.

This is a summary of information obtained from a review of all "see" references to the subject in Bureau files under the names and aliases listed on page 2. All references under these names containing data identical with the subject have been included except any indicated at the end of this summary under the heading REFERENCES NOT INCLUDED IN THIS SUMMARY. References indicated in the block as SI contain the same information as the foregoing serial although the information may have been received from a different source.

THIS SUMMARY HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR USE AT THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT AND IS NOT SUITABLE FOR DISSEMINATION. IT IS DESIGNED TO FURNISH A SYNOPSIS OF THE INFORMATION SET OUT IN EACH REFERENCE AND IN MANY CASES THE ORIGINAL SERIAL WILL CONTAIN THE INFORMATION IN MORE DETAIL.

Analyst

Charles E. Rader
CER:cdr

Coordinator

Annie Mae Hearon
amb/fcy

Approved

Lawrence W. Brady

CLASSIFIED BY 568SLD/GCL
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X 6
(JFK) 3/26/97

1 MCT JAS

REC
JAS RME

100-395934-120

OCT 21 1970

ENCLOSURE behind file
Search Slips only

CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO
DECLASSIFICATION AND/OR
RELEASE OF CIA INFORMATION
IN THIS DOCUMENT. EXCEPT PARAGRAPHS

KP 5-19-98
SLD/HKR

~~SECRET~~

5-23-98
(JFK)

CONFIDENTIAL

55 NOV 9 1970

SECRET

The following references in the file captioned "Robert Durant Feild" set forth information regarding the activities of Elizabeth Catlett White during the period 7/4/42 through 12/15/47, in Louisiana, District of Columbia, New York, and Mexico. White corresponded with Feild and asked to use his name as a reference for a Rosenwald fellowship. Feild wrote to the Director for Fellowship of the Julius Rosenwald Fund, 4901 Ellis Ave., Chicago, in behalf of White. White was on a leave of absence from the George Washington Carver School for art study on a Rosenwald fellowship. She also corresponded with Feild to enlist his support of a "War Mobilization Rally".

REFERENCE

SEARCH SLIP PAGE NUMBER

100-188819-28 ep.7,17
-35 p.1
-37 p.1,2
-43 p.1,4,5,21
-55 p.20,21

(65,72,86)
(65,72,86)
(65,73,86)
(65,73,86)
(73)

MEX-19 advised that Elizabeth Mora was an admitted former CP,USA member and while not considered to be active members of the ACGM, she and her husband associated with members thereof and were generally accepted therein.

Add. info.

100-53365-55 p.13,18
(5,43)

The following references in the file captioned "New Century Publishers (NCP)" set forth a list of names and addresses acquired on 4/17/54, which were contained in records located at 832 Broadway, NYC, occupied by NCP. This list was apparently a foreign mailing list for NCP. Among the names listed was that of Mrs. Elizabeth Mora of Mexico City.

REFERENCE

SEARCH SLIP PAGE NUMBER

100-24621-97 p.4
-98 p.7

(21)
(21)

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

MEX-18 and MEX-19 advised on 7/5/54, that Margaret Victoria Burroughs (100-337936) was maintaining a particularly close association with Elizabeth Catlett Mora. According to sources Mora and Burroughs planned to give a joint exposition of their paintings toward the end of July in Mexico City.

MEX-18, MEX-19, MEX-30 and MEX-31 advised that on 7/24/54, a joint exposition of the paintings of Mora and Burroughs was given at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Oppen, Jr. at Calle Dr. Galvez No.27, San Angel, Mexico, D.F. The showing was well attended by the ACGM.

100-337936-28 p.2
(6,87)
SI 100-343371-27 p.2
(7,87)
SI 100-393318-12 p.6
(9,88)
SI 105-91566-12 p.3
(32)

Lic. Raul Lince, Chief, Inspection Division, Secretaria de Gobernacion, Mexico, D.F. (protect identity) advised that when arrested on 9/24/54 by Mexican authorities, Abraham Bernard Magil (100-18314) had in his possession a small notebook which contained names, addresses and other notations. Among the names and addresses was "Eliz. Mora, Pino 273-16, 16-12-97".

Add. info.

100-18314-136 p.14
(21,37)

On 3/5/55, Elizabeth Catlett Mora, Secretary-Treasurer, TGP, Mexico City, said that she had received a letter from Claudia Jones in NYC, (not further identified) indicating that Mora should be wary of Hope Foy, a Negress in Mexico who reportedly was being supported by the CP, USA in NYC, because Foy was a "psycho" who could not be trusted.

(continued)

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

(continued)

Mora also described a romance between Martha Dodd Stern, wife of Alfred K. Stern (100-57453) and Pablo O'Higgins (not further identified).

MEX-18 and MEX-19
100-57453-1057 p.5,6
(5)
SI 100-375185-33 p.1
(8)
SI 100-375185-36 p.2
(8,88)

MEX-18 and MEX-19 advised that on 3/7/55, they had seen Elizabeth Catlett Mora*. Mora was well acquainted with Marion Davis Berdecio (65-58515) and her husband, Roberto Guardia Berdecio. Mora said that Roberto Berdecio was working very little at the TGP at that time. Mora also added that Berdecio was "carrying the torch for Nancy Bridges" (not further identified), and was not getting along with his wife.

65-58515-70
(3)

*Probably in Mexico

On 3/5/55, Elizabeth Catlett Mora said that she had taken Freda Radoff, the girl friend of Pablo O'Higgins (100-381839) to the hospital in Mexico City. It was Mora's opinion that Radoff had suffered a nervous breakdown because of the attention which O'Higgins had been paying Martha Dodd Stern, an ACGM associate. Mora described the romance between O'Higgins and Stern.

On 3/7/55, it was reported that O'Higgins was associating regularly with Mora and other ACGM associates.

MEX-18 and MEX-19
100-381839-65 p.1a,3
(8)

SECRET

SECRET

MEX-18 and MEX-19 advised that Alfred Herman Lawrence (100-412027) spent the day of 3/16/55, with ASA Zatz and Elizabeth Catlett Mora, both associated with the ACGM in Mexico City.

Add. info.

100-412027-31 p.3,10
(11,41,66,70,81,90,96)

MEX-18 advised that Elizabeth Catlett Mora, an American communist and corresponding secretary of the TGP, a center of communist artistic propaganda in Mexico, stated she had heard that Margaret Victoria Burroughs (100-337936) and her husband, Charles Gordon Burroughs, had made a quick trip to Mexico City in August, 1955, but she had not seen them.

100-337936-34 p.3
(6)
SI 100-343371-38
(7)
SI 100-343371-39 p.9
(52)

(S) [CIA, Mexico City] reported in September, 1955, that Xavier Guerrero (100-350549) and his wife, Clara, were well-acquainted with Elizabeth Catlett Mora and Francisco Mora. The Moras were known to be in touch with the Polish Legation in Mexico City. (u)

Add. info.

100-350549-9 p.5
(7,87)
SI 100-405136-11 p.5
(11,44,90)

LA-3512-S made available on 10/10/55, a supplementary list of "Negro, cultural and political leaders" which was to be sent to the Hollywood, Calif., Arts, Sciences and Professions (ASP) organization in connection with a planned testimonial dinner to be held on 11/12/55, honoring John Howard Lawson, a leading figure in the Hollywood ASP. Among those listed was Elizabeth De Mora, Mexico, D.F.

100-356137-1263 ep.23
(24)

-11-

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

MEX-18 and MEX-19 advised on 12/26/55, that Betty Mora mentioned she had approached both the Soviet Embassy and the Polish Legation in Mexico City in an attempt to secure financial support for a film which was being produced by Howard Arthur Bird (100-399704). Mora said that she was told by the Soviet Embassy and the Polish Legation that they had no money which could be allocated for such support.

100-399704-14 p.1a
(38)

Anna Rogovin (100-266889) and her husband Milton, left a package with Raul Poza, manager of the Hotel Francis, Mexico, D.F., in December, 1955, which contained a drawing of a Mexican Indian and signed by "Elizabeth Mora".

Jesus Ruiz, manager of the building at Calle Del Pino #273, Mexico, D.F., stated that the Rogovins spent 12/24-25/55, with the Moras. On 12/26/55, both the Rogovins and Moras departed together for an avowed vacation in Acapulco, Mexico. Ruiz stated that the Moras returned to Mexico City on 1/8/56.

Add. info.

MEX-46
100-266889-31
(6,23,44,87)

NY 830-S advised on 1/16/56, that Vera Kimche (100-421764) was planning to visit Mexico and would stay with Betty and Pancho De Moro in Mexico, D.F.

100-421764-2 p.2
(51)
SI 100-421764-3
(27,38)
SI 100-421764-4
(28,51)

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

CIA advised on 1/27/56, that one Alice Feld, who was believed to be an American, was visiting Mexico and was a friend of Elizabeth Catlett Mora, an American communist residing in Mexico City ~~(S)~~(u)

100-405136-15 p.4
(11,26,90)
SI 100-338166-13
(6,87)(Add. info.)

In March, 1956, a group which included Frederick Vanderbilt Field (100-2278) and Elizabeth Catlett Mora met regarding bringing Paul Robeson, a concealed communist, to Mexico in December, 1956, to give a concert for the purpose of raising funds for the CP, USA and PCM. Field reportedly was to finance the project.

On 3/31/56, Elizabeth and Francisco Mora were present at a party in Mexico City at which Max and Helen Shlafrock, associates of the ACGM, were the guests of honor.

During the period 3/1/56 to 6/10/56, Field was in contact with a number of individuals identified as associates of ACGM including Mora.

MEX-18 and MEX-19
100-2278-347 encl.p.3,4
(3)
SI 106-3173-30 p.6
(33)

The Immigration and Naturalization Service advised that on 6/12/56, it was reported that there had been an indication of an attempt to form some sort of an organization of the ACGM. The ACGM was to be divided among four "collectors", to contact the associates on a regular basis for collection of funds. One of the four "collectors" was Elizabeth Catlett Mora. The "collectors" indicated they would attempt to bring a regular supply of communist literature into Mexico for the ACGM. The funds collected were to be divided, half to the CP, USA, and the other half to be kept in Mexico to build up an "emergency fund". ~~(S)~~(u) DECLASSIFIED PER INS ON 8-17-98

105-46066-28 p.8
(15,92)

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

MEX-46 advised on 7/19/56, that the porter at Calle Pino 273, Colonia Santa Maria de la Rivera, Mexico, D.F., advised that a North American whose first name was Vera resided with Betty and Francisco (Pancho) Mora from about the first of October, 1955 until January, 1956. He added that no one was residing with the Moras at that time.

Add. info.

100-421764-5
(28,39)

MEX-18 and MEX-19 advised that they learned from Elizabeth Catlett Mora, a member of the ACGM, that John Woodrow Wilson (100-343971) was employed by a firm of commercial artists in Chicago.

The above information was set out in Legat, Mexico letter, 8/29/56.

100-343971-22
(7,23,87)

MEX-18 and MEX-19 advised that Vivian Hallinan (100-389202) was in Mexico City during the latter part of September, 1956, and had been in contact with Elizabeth Catlett Mora.

Add. info.

100-389202-9 p.2
(9)

Maria Del Gracia Molina, aka Mrs. Richard Allen Pick (protect identity) made available a letter dated 10/19/56, from Vivian Hallinan (100-389202) which had been in the possession of her sister, Carmen Molina Carrasco, whom Del Gracia stated was a PCM member. In the letter Hallinan sent her best regards to Betty Mora. Mora was believed to be Elizabeth Catlett Mora.

MEX-18 and MEX-19 had identified Mora as an American resident in Mexico, who had solicited funds for the PCM.

100-389202-10 p.1
(38,88)

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

On 10/14/56, Elizabeth Catlett Mora stated that she had received a letter from Margaret Victoria Burroughs (100-337936) and her husband, Charles Gordon Burroughs in Chicago. The letter indicated that they might be coming to Mexico on a vacation trip around Christmas, 1956.

As of 12/23/56, Mora had reportedly received no further information from the Burroughs regarding their prospective trip to Mexico.

MEX-18 and MEX-19
100-337936-35
(6,87)

MEX-18 and MEX-19 advised that Elizabeth Catlett Mora mentioned that Max Shlafrock (100-20715) had donated refreshments for a party given by the PCM held on 12/31/56. Mora was a self-admitted member of the PCM.

100-20715-60 p.1a
(4,85)

The following references in the file captioned "Hallie Ruth Donaldson" set forth information regarding the association of Elizabeth Catlett Mora with Donaldson during the period June, 1954 through 3/19/57, in Mexico, D.F. Mora was a member of the ACGM and Secretary-Treasurer of the TGP. Donaldson, a former CP member, was in contact with and visited in Mora's home. She gave Mora's address as a forwarding address where she received mail.

REFERENCE

SEARCH SLIP PAGE NUMBER

100-206635-24 p.1-3
-33
-35 p.1
-42 p.1,2,4
-44
-47
-49

(5,44,49,86)
(22)
(22)
(5)
(22)
(22)
(23)

SECRET

SECRET

On 3/20/57, Francisco and Betty Mora were present at dinner in the sources home in Mexico City, along with the Alfred Herman Lawrences and another couple.

On 3/25/57, Alfred Herman Lawrence (100-412027) in Mexico City, mentioned that he "had to see" Betty Mora.

MEX-18 and MEX-19
100-412027-39 p.2
(38)

On 1/14/57, information was received to the effect that Elizabeth Catlett Mora stated Enos Regnet Wicher (100-135901) and his wife, Maria, as well as other associates of the ACGM had made contributions of liquor for a New Year's Eve party held by the PCM.

Mora described Abraham Heller, for whom a party was given on 4/30/57, by the Wichers, as "one of the founders and financial supporters of the Jefferson School of Social Science in NYC."

Add. info.

MEX-18 and MEX-19
100-135901-147 p.2,3
(5,44,86)

On 9/28/56, Elizabeth Mora stated that her husband, Francisco Mora, had been in the Partido Popular when she met him. She added that he had been "converted and brought into the PCM by Xavier Guerrero", husband of Clara Porset Dumas De Guerrero (100-405136).

The Polish Legation in Mexico City gave two folios of Polish art prints to Elizabeth and Francisco Mora as presents. The folios were presented to the Moras on 5/3/57, by Clara Guerrero at the Mora residence. Guerrero indicated that she had brought the prints at the request of the Polish Legation.

Add. info.

MEX-18 and MEX-19
100-405136-19 p.4,5
(26,44)

SECRET

SECRET

On 5/28/57, Elizabeth Catlett Mora reportedly endeavored unsuccessfully to contact Joseph and Esther Raskob (100-335345) at their residence in Mexico City. Mora remarked that the Raskobs had pledged 500 pesos as a contribution to Mora for some unspecified peace congress to be held in Mexico City.

On 6/18/57, Mora was reported to have remarked that she had contacted Joseph Raskob regarding the alleged pledge, but had been unable to collect any money. According to Mora, the 500 peso donation had been promised by Esther Raskob.

Add. info.

MEX-18 and MEX-19
100-335345-14 p.2
(6)

MEX-18 and MEX-19 advised on 4/7/58, that while visiting in Mexico, Timothy Francis Kelly (61-7455) was in contact with Betty (Elizabeth Catlett Mora) and Francisco Mora.

Add. info.

61-7455-33
(2,84)
SI 61-7455-36
(2)

[CIA advised that on 6/9/58 Elizabeth Catlett Mora was in contact with Albert Maltz (not further identified), at which time she stated that she had received a letter from Betty Jane Hays 100-377008 (u) and her husband, William Joseph Hays, who were coming to Mexico] (u)

100-377008-76
(8)

The following references in the file captioned "Grace Granich" set forth information regarding the activities and association of Elizabeth Catlett Mora with Granich and her husband, Max, during the period 2/1/56 through 8/26/58, in Mexico. Granich, who Mora described as an old friend, visited with Mora when she was in Mexico. Mora

(continued)

SECRET

SECRET

(continued)

arranged hotel reservations for the Granichs and arranged "to put Grace in contact with the Polish Consul in Mexico City". Granich introduced Mora to Evelyn Clifton, an admitted CP, USA member, with the thought in mind that she might be able to teach at a language school run by Clifton. Mora was a prominent member of the TGP and a communist. In April of 1958, Mora said that she was withdrawing from any future activities in the ACGM and was severing her connections with the PCM. Mora stated that "they" told her that there must be no trace of a communist background concerning her in Mexican Government records. It was not clear whether "they" referred to Granich or the contact with the "Polish Consul".

REFERENCE

SEARCH SLIP PAGE NUMBER

100-88434-422 p.3
-443 p.1,3,4
-445
-446

(5,22,86)
(5,37)
(5)
(5)

MEX-18 and MEX-19 advised on 9/24/58, that Elizabeth Catlett Mora, an ACGM associate in Mexico, who had been arrested and released by Gobernacion in view of her marriage to a Mexican citizen, stated Maurice Hyman Halperin (65-14303) and his wife were in hiding somewhere in the vicinity of Mexico City.

65-14303-215 p.2
(3,20,84)

MEX-18 and MEX-19 advised that Elsie Margaret Sullivan (100-432842) in 1958 and 1959, while in Mexico, associated with/or resided with, among others, Elizabeth Catlett Mora and Francisco Mora, all of whom it was assumed were security subjects residing in Mexico.

100-432842-10
(13)
SI 100-432842-33 p.7
(13,91)

-18-

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

[CIA advised that according to information obtained between 12/11/58 and 2/13/59, one Betty (possibly Elizabeth Catlett de Mora) telephoned or was telephoned by Bertha or Charles Smolikoff (100-421747), [Mexico] ~~(u)~~ ~~(u)~~

100-421747-56 encl.p.3
(12,41,90,96)

NY 2537-S* advised that Margaret (LNU) told Barbara Myers (100-233885) that she was forwarding Myers' letter of 4/28/59, to a friend in Mexico, who was identified as Elizabeth Catlett, now known as Sra. Betty Mora.

100-233885-73 p.8
(37,87)

MEX-18 and MEX-19 reported in May, 1959, that Alvin Sandler (105-17090) and his wife were friendly with Francisco and Elizabeth Mora, prominent ACGM associates, who had assisted the Sanders in getting settled in Mexico City.

105-17090-20 p.1
(32)
SI 100-390167-21 p.1
(26)

MEX-18 and MEX-19 advised that on 8/15/59, Richard Long (100-431842) was a guest of Elizabeth Catlett Mora and Francisco Mora in Mexico City. Sources had the impression that Long shared the political opinions of the Moras.

Add. info.

100-431842-1
(13,29,45,91)

MEX-18 and MEX-19 advised that on 4/27/60, Francisco and Elizabeth Catlett Mora were among associates of the ACGM who attended a showing of the paintings of Bart Van Der Schelling, an artist, at the Kamffer Art Gallery, Mexico, D.F.

100-204987-23 p.2
(5)
SI 100-392652-10 p.2
(9)

-19-

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

MEX-18 and MEX-19 (protect identity) advised that on 6/15/60, Elizabeth Catlett Mora stated that she had recently been visited by George Crockett (100-367743) and Etheline Crockett who were visiting Mexico from Detroit, Mich. Mora explained that Crockett was a lawyer who had been one of the defense attorneys in the trial of the communist leaders. Mora also stated that the Crockett's were friendly with Jean and Gerhard Hagelberg, ACGM associates.

100-367743-19

(8)

NY 3246-S* on 7/9/61, furnished information concerning foreign subscribers to the magazine "Freedomways", of Freedomways Associates, Inc. (100-434819). Among the subscribers was Elizabeth Catlett Mora, Pino 273-16, Mexico, D.F.

Add. info.

100-434819-15 p.1, encl.p.5

(13)

MEX-18 advised that the reservations at the Hotel Del Bosque, Mexico, D.F., for Beulah Elizabeth Richardson (100-388568) for her visit to Mexico between 7/19/61 and 8/9/61, were made, at the request of Richardson, by Elizabeth Catlett Mora. During that time, Richardson, with Mora, visited the TGP.

100-388568-38 encl.p.1

(9,88)

In April of 1959, Alba Zatz (105-141293) and her husband, Asa Zatz, of Mexico City, were associating closely with Francisco and Elizabeth Mora, both of whom were ACGM associates and active participants in the affairs of the PCM.

In November, 1960, the Moras attended a party given by Alma Zatz.

Again on 10/25/61, the Moras attended a party given by the Zatzes.

Add. info.

MEX-18, MEX-19

105-141293-XI p.2-4

(33)

-20-

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

MEX-18 and MEX-19 advised that Betty Mora and Jose Ignacio Policarpo de Jesus Chavez Morado (105-26843) participated in the organization of a committee which presented paintings to Indian Prime Minister Nehru on 11/16/61, during his visit to Mexico.

Add. info.

105-26843-12 p.4-6
(15,40,92)

This reference sets forth information regarding the activities of Elizabeth Catlett Mora in Mexico City during the period 2/8/62 through 2/14/62, in connection with a visit to Mexico of Richard Greenspan (100-366389). Mora said that Greenspan was in Mexico on a special errand for certain information for a report which she felt could have been obtained by people already in Mexico. Mora claimed that she had no intention of seeing Greenspan, but on 2/8/62, Nina Greenspan, Richard Greenspan's wife, stated that he was conferring on that date with Mora. Prior to his departure from Mexico, Greenspan got into a dispute with Mora who was trying to secure Mexican citizenship. One of Greenspan's children remarked, "Do you know that Betty Mora can't be of any use to my daddy until the President (of Mexico) signs her citizenship papers which are on his desk?" A large stack of books and pamphlets which Mora described as of a very inflammatory nature and some of which had been banned from Mexico, were delivered to Mora's home for Greenspan. Mora accused Greenspan of jeopardizing her position in Mexico. Greenspan gave her the money to pay for the pamphlets and said he would pick them up. He never came by for the pamphlets, therefore Mora sold them and donated the proceeds to the PCM. She said she would write to Greenspan and thank him for the contribution.

100-366389-45 p.C,D,E
(8,38)

[CIA advised that on 4/2/62, Waldeen Valencia] (105-91566) (u)
mentioned to Margaret Maltz of Mexico City (not further identified)
a number of persons she wanted to have at a farewell party being
given by the Maltzes for Valencia and her husband. Included were
Elizabeth and Francisco Mora. (u)

105-91566-32 p.2
(32)

-21-

SECRET

SECRET

The following references set forth information regarding Elizabeth Catlett Mora and individuals listed below with whom she was associated socially and/or in the TGP and ACGM, in Mexico City during the period 11/22/54 through 4/16/62. The persons set out are subjects of the main files listed.

| ASSOCIATE | REFERENCE | SEARCH SLIP PAGE NUMBER |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Frederick Vanderbilt Field | 100-2278-372 encl.p.2 | (3) |
| Morris Harry Swadesh | 100-344641-80 p.2 | (7) |
| Pablo O'Higgins | 100-381839-62 p.1a | (8) |
| George Morris Kaplan | 100-419442-3 p.4 | (27,45) |
| Matthew Schwarz | 100-437154-4 p.3 | (14,91) |

MEX-18 and MEX-19 advised that on 8/11/62, Elizabeth Catlett Mora was attempting to locate Bob Cristman (100-439466) and his wife Gail, who were visiting in Mexico. She was looking for the Cristmans at the request of Andrea Mendez (not further identified).

100-439466-1 p.2
(14)

Both Helen Maxine Levi Travis (100-336032) and her husband, Robert, contacted Elizabeth Catlett Mora upon their arrival in Mexico. She on 11/2/62 and he, a few days before. They were believed to have been well recommended, as Mora appeared to accept them without question.

Following the disappearance of Helen Travis on 11/4/62, Mora and her husband frantically tried to contact various ACGM members and determine what had transpired. They attempted to obtain an injunction against her arrest. They were unable to locate her and surmised that she and her husband had been picked up and deported, which was later confirmed.

Add. info.

MEX-18 and MEX-19
100-336032-243 p.8,9
(6,87)

-22-

SECRET

SECRET

In October, 1962, Bart Van Der Schelling (100-367251) and his wife, Edna, were in Mexico City and in contact with Elizabeth Catlett Mora.

On 11/22/62, Bart Van Der Schelling conferred at length with Mora concerning Abraham Lincoln Brigade members in Mexico and Van Der Schelling reportedly gave Mora a donation for the PCM.

MEX-18 and MEX-19
100-367251-66 p.3,4
(8)
SI 100-398766-52 p.4
(10,89)

The following references in the file captioned "Taller de Grafica Popular" set forth information regarding the activities of Elizabeth Catlett Mora during the period May, 1952 through 12/5/62, in Mexico. Mora, a US citizen and an artist, was a member of the TGP and served at one time as its Secretary-Treasurer. She carried on a regular correspondence with "progressive unions and organizations in the US." "Progressive" used by Mora indicated unions and organizations which followed the CP line. Mora, although not actually a member of the PCM, was a strong supporter of the PCM faction of the TGP, which was headed by her husband, Francisco Mora. She collected funds for the PCM faction and assisted it in every way. Some of Mora's paintings were exhibited in Moscow, Russia. Mora was also an associate of the ACGM.

REFERENCE

SEARCH SLIP PAGE NUMBER

100-396902-2
-4 p.3,6,13,14
-5 p.1,1A,2
-6 p.1,4
-8 p.1,1A,2,3
-12 p.2,3
-13 p.2,3
-14 p.1A,2
-16 p.2
-18 p.2
-21 p.1A,2
-24 p.3

(10,89)
(10,89)
(10,89)
(10,89)
(10,26,89)
(10,89)
(10,89)
(10,89)
(10,89)
(89)
(10)
(10,89,42,103)

SECRET

SECRET

MEX-18 and MEX-19 advised on 12/31/62, that Elizabeth Catlett Mora had been trying to arrange for an engineer from Los Angeles, to travel to Cuba. Before she could complete the arrangements for a visa for this individual through the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City, he attempted to expedite the matter by contacting the Czech Consul in Los Angeles and the Cuban Minister of Exterior in Havana, Cuba. Because of that action the engineer lost his chance for a visa. However, Mora planned to go ahead with attempts to get him into Cuba, since he was a qualified engineer and would be needed in Cuba. Mora identified the engineer as the nephew of a woman named Freda who formerly lived with Pablo O'Higgins, an ACGM associate, and who died a few years before.

It was noted that the above information had been received by sources from Mora and that Mora had a tendency to exaggerate her importance.

Add. info.

105-103671-11X
(16/93)

As of August, 1962, Frances Williams, an elderly Negro actress, was visiting in Mexico City, and associated with various persons in the ACGM, such as Elizabeth Catlett Mora.

During the year 1963, in connection with the planned divorce of Gwendolyn Charmagne Hall (100-375336) and Haywood Hall, Mora felt the Halls should consider a reconciliation. She stated that Haywood had been considered a top Negro communist in the US and was once the only American communist in the US whom Stalin* trusted. She felt the CP had treated him shabbily.

MEX-18 and MEX-19
100-375336-53
(8/88)

*Russian political leader.

MEX-18 and MEX-19 advised that in January, 1963, Elizabeth Catlett Mora had visited Cuba and had returned to Mexico City on 1/21/63. She mentioned that in Cuba she met Bob Williams (100-387728).

(continued)

SECRET

SECRET

(continued)

She said that Williams was psychotic and was avoided by both Cubans and Americans. Mora said that he had not learned the language and complained that the US offered more civil liberties. She said he did not work, was completely useless and would have been deported except for the fact that he had been granted refuge.

Add. info.

100-387728-88 p.5
(9,88)

A review of issues of "Mainstream" (100-354634), a magazine published by Masses and Mainstream, Inc., 832 Broadway, NYC, reflected that the work of Elizabeth Catlett, a sculptor, was photographed for the cover of the February, 1963, issue.

Add. info.

100-354634-177 p.10
(7,87)

MEX-18 and MEX-19 advised on 2/18/63, that Alfred Herman Lawrence (100-412027) and his wife were in Mexico City at that time. The Lawrences appeared to be on a vacation trip; however, during his stay in Mexico City, Lawrence was checking on the receipt of regular donations he reportedly had been forwarding to Elizabeth Catlett Mora, to be utilized for the PCM.

Add. info.

100-412027-83 encl.p.2
(11)

MEX-18 and MEX-19 advised that on several occasions during the year May, 1962 through 5/6/63, Elizabeth Catlett Mora had approached the various persons in the ACGM to collect money for various causes sponsored by the PCM. She had commented on those occasions that the wealthy American communists were very generous in their contributions with the exception of Frederick Vanderbilt Field (100-2278).

100-2278-439 p.1A
(3)

-25-

SECRET

SECRET

MEX 18 and MEX 19, on 6/10/63, advised that according to Elizabeth and Francisco Mora of Mexico City, both Gerhard Hans Bernard Hagelberg (40-41121) and his wife Jeanne Curtis Hagelberg enjoyed official favor in Cuba. Elizabeth Mora indicated that she did not believe Gerhard Hagelberg had the background to handle the important position of handling foreign press relations in Cuba.

Add. info.

40-41121-114

(19)

(u)
[On 8/5/63, Albina Brinton] (100-389193) [contacted Berthe Smolikoff (not identified) in Mexico City. Brinton stated that she was very anxious to talk with Betty Mora and her husband, Francisco Mora. She indicated that Hans Hoffman in Los Angeles, had told her about the Moras. Smolikoff gave her the Moras' address and advised that the Moras would be able to put Brinton in contact with most of the contemporary artists. (u)]

[On 8/5/63, Albert Maltz contacted Smolikoff regarding her seeing Betty Mora. Maltz requested Smolikoff to give Betty a message to call Brinton at the Hotel Tejas, Mexico City, and stated that Brinton only got to Maltz because she was looking for Betty Mora. (u)]

On 8/14/63, Brinton informed Smolikoff that she had been in touch with the Moras and said that the Moras "had been grand to me." (u)

Add. info.

CIA (u)

100-389193-11

(9,38,44)

MEX-18 and MEX-19 advised that on 8/21/63, Elizabeth Catlett Mora was assisting in a program inspired by the PCM to have telegrams of support sent to the March on Washington Committee in the US on behalf of the march on Washington scheduled for 8/28/63, in support of racial integration. Mora, in endeavoring to promote the organization of marches on the US Embassy in Mexico City in support of the march on Washington, planned on having Harold Bernard Richardson (100-363809) and Rena Richardson organize the Unitarian group in Mexico City to join

(continued)

-26-

SECRET

SECRET

(continued)

the march. Mora pointed out that a "bland" approach was to be made to the Unitarians in explaining the march which was to be for the support of President Kennedy and no reference was to be made to the communist inspiration of the Mexico City marches.

Add. info.

100-363809-100 p.2
(7/25)
SI 100-400078-25 p.2,3
(11/26)

On 3/15/63, it was reported that the daughter of Morris Harry Swadesh (100-344641), Daisy, was attending classes at the San Carlos Art Academy, Mexico, D.F., where Elizabeth Mora taught.

As of September, 1963, Morris Harry Swadesh had been in social contact with Mora, an ACGM associate, on two occasions.

MEX-18 and MEX-19
100-344641-105 p.2,3
(24)

MEX-18 and MEX-19 advised on 9/9/63, that Elizabeth Mora stated the TGP, Mexico City, was in arrears in its rent and was about to be evicted. Mora stated seven members were recruited to contribute as well as Charles Smolikoff, a prominent ACGM associate, and David Prensky (100-88237).

Add. info.

100-88237-118 p.2,3
(22)

MEX-18 and MEX-19 advised on 9/30/63, that Elizabeth Mora stated that if the communists were able to take over the Mexican Government, Frederick Vanderbilt Field (100-2278) and some other American communist residents in Mexico who had not been cooperative with the PCM and who had exploited the Mexican workers would be among the first to be expelled from Mexico. Mora indicated that she believed Field was mainly interested in his own personal welfare and not in the advancement of the communist movement in Mexico.

100-2278-449 p.2
(20)

-27-

SECRET

SECRET

MEX-18 and MEX-19 advised on 9/30/63, that Elizabeth Mora, reported as a member of the so-called "Leadership Branch" of the PCM, in discussing proposed plans to take over the Mexican government by the communists, stated it was anticipated that a new communist government would want help and assistance from highly selected American communists who would prove themselves trustworthy. She cited Charles N. Smolikoff, husband of Berthe May Neham Smolikoff (100-421747), as one of those individuals.

Add. info.

100-421747-85 p.L,M
(27)
SI 100-441277-1 p.2
(29)

On 9/30/63, sources stated that, according to Elizabeth Catlett Mora, the boarding house at Calle Ignacio Mariscal 70, Mexico, D.F., was very "tightly controlled" and only persons who were politically "reliable" were to be referred there. It was also stated that many Americans going to Cuba stopped there, and therefore, no "non-political" persons should be sent there.

In September, 1963, Mora arranged for a room at the Lodgings Mariscal 70 for Saul Landau, an American from San Francisco, who was visiting Mexico and who reportedly planned to go to Cuba at a later date.

Add. info.

MEX-18 and MEX-19
105-126619-2 p.1,2
(16,33,93)

MEX-18 and MEX-19 advised that on 1/5/64, Elizabeth Mora confirmed the previous presence of Edith Halperin, wife of Maurice Hyman Halperin (65-14303), in Mexico. Mora advised also that Halperin's son, David, had been in Mexico. Mora indicated that the meeting was between mother and son and had no political significance.

65-14303-319
(20)

-28-

SECRET

SECRET

MEX-18 and MEX-19 advised on 1/8/64, that Samuel J. Novick (100-338889) had reportedly discontinued contributions which he had formerly made to Elizabeth and Francisco Mora for the PCM. The Moras, members of the PCM, had maintained liaison between the PCM and the ACGM, and for an extended period of time had collected money from ACGM associates for the PCM.

100-338889-189 p.3
(23)

MEX-18 and MEX-19 advised on 2/26/64, in connection with Anna Sparer Seborer's (100-393277) statement that both Sam Brooks, whom she stated was a political economist and expert on Latin America, and Elizabeth Mora were Soviet agents, that Mora on occasions prior to Brooks' death indicated that she did not have a high regard for his ability. Mora stated that he was the most oversalaried Latin American expert she ever saw.

Add. info.

100-393277-120 p.4,6, encl.p.2,3
(9,26)

Former MEX-18 and Former MEX-19 stated that Gertrude Gussie Lee (100-372502) had been invited to attend a party on 4/6/64, at the residence of Elizabeth Mora in Mexico City. Mora had advised that she assumed Lee to be a communist since she had been referred to her by a "comrade".

Add. info.

100-372502-14 p.6-9
(25)

MEX-18 and MEX-19 advised on 4/10/64, that Elizabeth Mora stated the Progressive Labor Movement, which she described as a left deviation group which was farther to the Left than the CP and closer to the Chinese position than the Soviet position, was receiving \$1,300 from the Chinese communists to assist in the printing of Haywood Hall's new book, "Revolution in the South". Hall was the husband of Gwendolyn Charmagne Hall (100-375336). Mora claimed money was being channeled through Vincent Theodore Lee, identified as the former head of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee in NYC.

Add. info.

100-375336-58 p.4,5
(25)

SECRET

-29-

SECRET

Ex MEX-18 advised on 6/8/64, that Elizabeth Catlett Mora and May Brooks, a prominent associate of the ACGM, visited with Clara Porset Dumas De Guerrero (100-405136) and her husband at Guerrero's residence in Mexico City.

Add. info.

100-405136-45 p.2
(11,904)

MEX-18 and MEX-19 on 2/24/64, advised that Elizabeth Mora, a CP member in Mexico, claimed that the Black Nationalists, whom she identified as supporters of Malcolm X (100-399321), were in accord with some sectors of the CP whom she subsequently identified as members of the Progressive Labor Movement and supporters of the Chinese Line. She claimed that the "Muslims" were "magnificently disciplined" and that there were at the time, 17 Muslims in Mexico City on "OAS" Scholarships.

On 6/22/64, Mora reportedly stated "Orders had come down for full support to be given to Malcolm X". She did not state where the orders came from but indicated this was the position to be taken by the CPs in Latin America. Mora also stated that the revolution would come from the North American Negroes and that Cuba was "dead" as a revolutionary factor, therefore, there would be no help given Cuba but that the campaign to support Malcolm X would be a success in Latin America. She also stated that an "all out campaign" was being conducted to raise money among "ACGM Associates" in Mexico to support the program. (Source not given).

100-399321-215 p.C,D
(26)

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), El Paso, Texas, on 9/1/64, submitted a request for a name check and clearance to conduct an investigation on Elizabeth Catlett Mora, Mexico.

Bureau stamp indicated that on 9/22/64 INS was furnished information regarding Mora and advised that an INS investigation at that time would not prejudice any inquiries being made by FBI.

39-0-63047
(1,834)

-31-

SECRET

SECRET

MEX-18, MEX-19, MEX-234, and MEX-235 advised on various occasions from February, 1963 through 10/6/64, that while in Mexico, Cedric and Mary Belfrage (100-359012) had been in contact with a number of individuals including Francisco and Elizabeth Mora.

Add. info.

100-359012-23 p.3,14
(24)

[CIA advised that on 8/13/64, Abbie Bigelow (100-428174) ~~(u)~~ contacted the residence of Charles and Bertha Small (not further identified) in Mexico City, in an effort to establish contact with Elizabeth and Francisco Mora. Bigelow indicated that one of the latter had been the mutual friend who had directed her to Charles Small's store when she had been in Mexico City previously. Bertha Small advised Bigelow how to contact Elizabeth Mora at the San Carlos Art Academy or at her home. Bigelow indicated that she hoped Elizabeth Mora could assist her in obtaining accommodations in Mexico City. ~~(u)~~

MEX-234 and MEX-235, advised that on 11/6/64, Bigelow was at the TGP in the company of Elizabeth and Francisco Mora.

100-428174-10
(28)

MEX-234 and MEX-235 advised on 1/19/65, that Elizabeth Mora was well acquainted with William Colfax Miller (100-145365) but was extremely critical of him, indicating that he was an unstable person.

100-145365-182 p.5
(22)

On 1/30/65, informant advised that Elizabeth Mora in Mexico City, had stated that she would see what she could do to get action and establish a campaign for the release from prison of three Puerto Rican women, members of the Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico, through the Union Nacional de Mujeres Mejicanas (National Union of Mexican Women) (UNMM) and the TGP.

(continued)

-32-

SECRET

SECRET

(continued)

Source advised on 2/4/65, that Mora would definitely present the case of the three imprisoned Puerto Rican women before the UNMM.

Add. info.

MEX-234 and MEX-235
105-75715-343 p.138
(32)

MEX-234 and MEX-235 advised that on 2/22/65, Joseph Bernstein (100-68623) and his wife, Reva, were at the home of Francisco and Elizabeth Mora in Mexico City.

MEX-234 and MEX-235 advised that on 2/26/65, Elizabeth stated that Joseph Bernstein had departed from Mexico City.

MEX-18 and MEX-19 advised that Elizabeth frequently served as liaison between the PCM and the ACGM.

Add. info.

100-68623-55 p.2,3
(21)
SI 100-68623-58
(21)
SI 100-343413-26
(23)(Add. info.)

The US Army, Frankfurt/Main, West Germany (protect identity) furnished information from Communications Intercept Service. Included was a letter dated 3/25/65 from John Henrik Clarke, Associate Editor, "Freedomways", NYC, addressed to Mrs. Kay Pankey, Seven Seas Publishers, Berlin, Germany. The letter contained a list of the names and addresses of contributors to a book, "Harlem: USA". Included under the heading, Artists, was Mrs. Elizabeth Catlett Mora, Pino 273-16, Mexico, D.F. (C)

Copy of letter enclosed
100-434819-165 encl.p.7
(13)

-33-

SECRET

SECRET

(continued)

revolution. Mora persuaded Allen to remain in Mexico City when he became nervous and agitated because someone from the Mexican Immigration authorities had been making inquiries about him.

REFERENCE

SEARCH SLIP PAGE NUMBER

100-442246-26 p.1
-28
-34 p.1-9
-36 p.1-4

(39)
(29)
(29)
(30)

The following references set forth information regarding social affairs attended or given by Elizabeth Catlett Mora during the period 4/4/54 through 4/18/67, in Mexico City. Some of the affairs were held in Mora's home. Many of the affairs were attended by associates of the ACGM and by visitors from the United States, who in many instances had affiliations with the CP, USA. During these affairs discussions occurred regarding situations which were prevalent at the time, such as Vietnam and the Dominican Republic. Mora was described as pro-Red China.

REFERENCE

SEARCH SLIP PAGE NUMBER

61-7455-30
64-5003-1243
100-81053-21
100-226074-55
100-356922-36 p.12
100-377008-90 p.15
100-413635-5 p.4
100-422032-9 p.15,16,22
134-9316-1 p.3

(2,84)
(41,96)
(Add. info.)(22)
(6,44,86)
(7,24,88)
(8,25,88)
(Add. info.)(11,
27,90)
(Add. info.)
(12,90)
(17)

SECRET

SECRET

The following references in the file captioned "Communist Party of Mexico" set forth information regarding the activities of Elizabeth Catlett Mora during the period November, 1952 through 1/1/68, in Mexico and Cuba.

SYNOPSIS OF INFORMATION

REFERENCE AND SEARCH
SLIP PAGE NUMBER

MEX-16^(c) advised in November, 1952, that Catlett was one of a group of plastic art workers who made up a companion group to the Revolutionary Painters Front (RPF), a PCM front group. That group frequently met with the members of the RPF and collaborated with the latter on PCM work.

64-200-221-1373 p.29
(102)

CIA advised that in 1953, Mora was a member of the Taller de Grafica Popular, probably the most important pro-communist artists' group in Mexico. A number of American Communist sympathizers were active within Mexican artistic circles including Mora. ^(u)

64-200-221-2265 encl.p.89,136
(2,84)

MEX-18 and MEX-19 advised that in September, 1955, Mora was selling bonds to associates of the ACGM to raise money for "La Voz de Mexico", organ of the PCM. Mora stated that a rumor that "La Voz de Mexico" had received money from the Soviet Union with which to purchase printing equipment was false. She claimed the rumor started through an argument with the former printer who invented the rumor out of vindictiveness. Mora stated that because of the rumor donations to the Party had fallen off and printers had been scared to have anything to do with the paper.

64-200-221-1933 p.13,14
(19)

Department of Army Intelligence, Mexico, advised on 3/8/56, that Mora was married to Francisco Mora, who was of the education department in Mexico which through the teachers' union was heavily penetrated by the CP. Elizabeth was listed as one of the principal communist personalities. ^(u)

64-200-221-2021 p.3,6
(2,18,84)

DECLASSIFIED per
ARMY ON 4-8-98
(continued)
SLD/KSR
4-27-98
(JFK)

SECRET

SECRET

(continued)

SYNOPSIS OF INFORMATION

REFERENCE AND SEARCH
SLIP PAGE NUMBER

The State Department advised on 9/10/58, that Mora was among those American citizens with previous records of communist affiliations who were arrested by Mexican authorities in Mexico. Mora was later released.

64-200-221-2543
(18,98)
SI 64-200-221-2559 p.2
(2)

US Customs, Miami, Fla., advised on 9/12/58, that Customs, Washington, D.C., had instructed that Customs clearance be withheld on a listed group of suspected communists being expelled from Mexico. Among those listed was Mora.

64-200-221-2551 p.2
(2)

MEX-18 and MEX-19 advised that Elizabeth Catlett Mora remarked that her husband, Francisco, was leaving on 7/16/60 for Africa and would probably also visit Czechoslovakia and Communist China. MEX-131 advised that Francisco Mora Perez, a PCM member and husband of Mora, headed the Mexican delegation to the World Conference of Teachers which was scheduled to open in Conakry, French West Africa on 7/25/60.

64-200-221-3108 p.6
(2,84)

SE 607-S advised that on 5/31/62, Elizabeth Dole, a leader in the Ballard-Greenwood Club of the North King Section of the Northwest District of the CP at Seattle, had visited the Mora residence in Mexico City. Mora talked about One Seguieros, an artist who had been detained by the Mexican Government for communist affiliation and efforts to gain his release. The Moras were to present exhibits of their art work. Mora also discussed her arrest and detention by the Mexican police.

64-200-221-3675 encl.p.1,2
(36)

(continued)

SECRET

SECRET

(continued)

SYNOPSIS OF INFORMATION

CIA advised that Mora left Mexico by air on 12/30/62, to attend the celebrations in honor of the fourth anniversary of the Cuban revolution in Habana, Cuba. She had a courtesy visa with the Instituto Cubano de Amistad con las Pueblos shown as her contact. (S)(u)

MEX-18 and MEX-19 advised on 8/13/63, that Mora had been collecting money in Mexico to send telegrams of support for the march on Washington, 8/28/63. Mora cast three bronze statuettes to sell for that purpose. The collection was being made in the name of "League for Defense of Negroes", a defunct organization of which Mora had been a vice-president. Mora was reportedly to draft telegrams to be sent in the English language.

MEX-18 from August, 1963, through 10/22/63, furnished information regarding the activities of Mora and her connections with the so-called "Leadership Branch" of the PCM in Mexico. She was also connected with the TGP of which in 1963 she was Secretary-General. Mora indicated that she was dissatisfied with the Soviet Party line and mentioned PCM plans for the takeover of the Government of Mexico.

REFERENCE AND SEARCH
SLIP PAGE NUMBER

64-200-221-3673 p.2,3
(19,35,99)

64-200-221-3833
(2,84)

64-200-221-3875 p.2-4,
encl.p.1,
2,4-6,8,
10-13

(3,84)

(continued)

SECRET

SECRET

The following references in the file captioned "Political Matters" set forth information regarding the activities of Elizabeth Catlett Mora during the period 9/7/58 through 3/27/68, in Mexico and Cuba.

SYNOPSIS OF INFORMATION

REFERENCE AND SEARCH
SLIP PAGE NUMBER

Legat, Mexico, reported that on 9/7/58 Mora was arrested by Mexican Immigration Inspectors in a roundup of all foreigners who had been involved in riots in Mexico City on 9/6/58, for deportation. Mora was released on 9/8/58 because of her marriage to a Mexican citizen and because she had children of Mexican citizenship.

109-12-221-198 p.3
(17,46,93)

This reference sets out information furnished by MEX-18 and MEX-19 regarding activities of Elizabeth and "Pancho" Mora on 3/21/63 in Mexico City. The Moras attended a PCM meeting where a CP Central Committee decision to support the Khrushchev line was discussed. Elizabeth spoke criticizing the Central Committee action and supported the Chinese position. Following the meeting she met with the Czechoslovakian Commercial Attache and spoke by telephone to someone in Cuba. She claimed to have traveled to Cuba on a special assignment and gave an account of the Cuban situation.

109-12-210-4220 p.1,1A-5
(17,33,93)

MEX-18 and MEX-19 advised in May and June, 1963, that Mora travelled to Cuba in January, 1963, and enjoyed high prestige with the Cuban leaders. The Chinese Ambassador to Cuba told Mora's husband that they greatly admired his wife. A letter was given to Francisco Mora from the president of the Artists'

109-12-210-4410
(17,33,93)

(continued)

SECRET